

From: Tom Gottshalk
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 11:02am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs,

As a computer user and as a citizen interested in good government which includes equal justice under the law. I have written to the DOJ and my elected officials several times on the subject of our government's anti-trust suit against Microsoft several times. On each of those occasions I stressed my conviction that the search for justice has been completely distorted by all parties involved.

I am convinced to this day that justice has not been severed most particularly for the party stated by the DOJ as the injured party, namely the consumer. Everyone involved in the case has benefited except for the computer buying public and the taxpayer of this country. Lawyers have gained fees, politicians have gained in reputation, The DOJ has gained by saying they are protecting the public, Microsoft stock holders have gained despite the efforts of the US Government, and most especially Microsoft's competitors gained by having their arch rival entangled in a legal briar patch. I'm not saying I think Microsoft is innocent of the allegations, clearly they are not. I am saying in this case a monopoly producing a personal computer operating system was and still is a good thing. I am also convinced that the only process remedy that makes any sense for the public and for Microsoft especially for their competitors is the process of the open market undistorted by any hand of the government even in the slightest way.

For proof of the truth of the above statement just look at the recent introduction of Microsoft's newest version of the Windows Operating System, Windows XP. In their attempt to make pirating impossible (the real problem in the software industry) they have made the multiple computer home user buy separate copied for each computer. This is as much a marketing ploy as it is a copyright issue. As a marketing gimmick it will backfire and cost Microsoft tens of thousands of sales. I predict Microsoft will be forced to relax this requirement to gain additional sales. And Microsoft has already had a serious security issues with XP which will cost them more sales a situation that will require MS to re-write portions of XP. In the end the dominance of MS Windows will falter because users will find better ways of doing the same kinds of things they now do on PCs. The government is on the verge of institutionalizing the MS Windows operating system in the interest of justice for the consumer by strict so called process regulations and rules. Such a mission by the DOJ is bound to fail because regulated products survive only because their regulation survives.

Please consider the only possible justice for the consumer is open markets that reward producers of good products with sales at fair prices and punish producers of inferior products with no sales regardless of their price. The DOJ should keep in mind the consumer as an equal to the law and that in the end exercises more power than the law.

Sincerely,

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